

GUILFORD OF MAINE
GUILFORD, MAINE

The Guilford of Maine Company, of Guilford, Maine, is a part of Interface Fabrics Group, a subsidiary of Interface, Inc. Guilford of Maine specializes in weaving synthetic fabrics used in upholstery, window treatments, vertical surface fabrics. Since 1996, the company has been recording environmental information on many aspects, such as its water use, recycled materials and total solid waste. The facility was ISO 14001-certified in July 1998. The plant has also received two Governor's Award of Environmental Excellence, as well as the Maine Chamber of Commerce 2000 Maine Business of the Year Award. All employees receive training on sustainable practices to better understand the impacts of manufacturing processes on nature.

AT A GLANCE:

Industry Sector:	SIC 2221
Business:	Weaves synthetic fabrics, upholstered fabrics and window treatment fabrics
Facility Employees:	500-1,000
Accomplishments:	Increased recycled material use Reduce total solid waste
2003 Commitments:	Reduce total water use Reduce total solid waste Reduce total energy use Increase recycled material use
Address:	9 Oak Street P.O. Box 179 Guilford, ME 04443

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Past Accomplishments

The Guilford of Maine facility followed up on their commitment to environmental performance with an increased use of recycled materials and reductions in total solid waste generated. Between 1997 and 1999, Guilford of Maine:

- **Increased recycled material use** by almost double through its purchase of fiber and yarn produced from recycled PET bottles instead of virgin material made from petroleum.
- **Reduced total solid waste** by 64% via innovative ways to eliminate waste at its source and efforts to recycle polypropylene and paperboard yarn containers.

Future Commitments

The facility has committed to continuous environmental improvement through efforts focusing on water use, solid waste generation, energy consumption and recycled material use. By 2003, Guilford of Maine will:

- **Reduce total water use** by 12% through reusing water from its dyeing process as cooling water.
- **Reduce total solid waste generation** by an additional 25%, studying opportunities to recycle or eliminate it. The facility is also working on several partnerships where they might barter their waste for something useful to their production process.

- **Reduce total energy use** by 11% through the use of biomass fuel and collected steam and heat. Currently, 68% of the energy for the facility is produced through waste wood chips. The plant plans to install equipment which will regulate production based on steam availability. Other upgrades include new lighting, air compressors, high efficiency motors and occupancy sensors for rooms.
- **Increase recycled material use** to 80% of total materials used. This will be done by ensuring that all vertical surface fabrics are made from 100% recycled raw material.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Guilford of Maine facility keeps in close contact with area residents through their Environmental Task Force, the Pollution Prevention Citizens Advisory Panel, and several other groups. The facility also airs a local radio station segment called “The Environmental Minute”. Several luncheons are hosted by the facility each year, where it meets with local citizens to discuss its EMS, as well learn about local concerns. In addition, the facility sponsors the Maine Recycles Week 2000, and the Maine Business for Social Responsibility Annual Conference and Annual Leadership Forum. Citizens can also communicate with the plant via its website at www.guilfordofmaine.com.